



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.3447 | FAX (517) 373.5849
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/birkholz/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 2, 2003

Contact: Amanda Price
517-373-3447

Birkholz Introduces Legislation to Change State Bird

LANSING-State Sen. Patty Birkholz (R-Saugatuck Twp) introduced legislation this week to name the Kirtland's Warbler Michigan's state bird.

"The Kirtland's Warbler is unique to Michigan and nests nowhere else in the world except for a few counties in Michigan," Sen. Birkholz said. "Because of its rarity, the Kirtland's Warbler brings birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts from all over the world. This added influx of nature lovers enhances our tourism industry."

The Kirtland's Warbler nests in the following Michigan counties: Alcona, Clare, Crawford, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Kalkaska, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Roscommon, Delta, Marquette, Schoolcraft and Baraga.

Although the Kirtland's Warbler is on the endangered species list, the population is growing and it will soon be taken off the list. This population growth is due to conservation efforts to preserve the jack pine forests, the only nesting place of the warbler.

Michigan's current state bird is the American Robin. It is not unique to Michigan and is also the state bird of Connecticut and Wisconsin.